

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Here appears an example of what's good for the bottom line taking precedence over what we need for our democracy. This is a natural consequence of what happens when control the airwaves is consolidated by those who are wealthy or powerful

This country desperately needs information and perspectives created in our own communities and dealing substantively about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions are evidence, I think, of two needs. First, we need to strengthen media ownership rules to reduce the concentration of power. Second, the license renewal process needs to involve publicized, prime time debate about a given media outlet's behavior in service of the public trust, followed then by more active solicitation of public opinion. Thank you.